

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 were acted upon in the aforesaid Office Action. Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled and new claim 23 added, leaving claims 2-4 and 6-23 for consideration, claim 23 being the only independent claim.

Claims 2-4 and 6-22 stand objected to as failing to clearly identify the invention. Claim 22 was the only independent claim and has been canceled. New claim 23, submitted herein, is believed to clearly identify the invention.

Claims 1-17 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,241,487 - Bianco.

Contrary to Bianco, a system is claimed herein which has a plurality of different courses lying in different directions, each course having one and the same starting and finishing point.

Bianco does not have a plurality of different courses, lying in different directions, and having one and the same starting and finishing point.

Additionally, in the present invention several times are measured, namely the reaction time between the lighting of the signaling device 12 and the time when the runner passes the first device 6a; secondly, the sprinting time between the first measuring device 6a and the second measuring device 6b, and third, the turning time between the first and the second passing of the second measuring device 6b, and the sprinting time back to the finishing point from measuring device 6b to measuring device 6a. A runner cannot see, before the signaling device 12 is lighted, and therefore is not aware of the direction in which to start running.

Comparisons are available as to the partial times well as the total time, which is a meaningful difference relative to Bianco.

In Bianco, there is no measurement of reaction time, no measurement of sprinting time, and no measurement of turning time.

It therefore appears that the unique race measurement system defined by new claim 23 sets forth a combination of elements not present in, or suggested by, Bianco.

Claims 2-4 and 6-22 all depend directly or ultimately from claim 23 and would appear to still further distinguish over Bianco.

In view thereof, allowance of claims 2-4 and 6-23 is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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